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Recreation Commission Minutes 01/08/2008

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

Tuesday, January 8, 2008

Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00 PM on the first floor of the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, January 8, 2007.

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Don Vitters, Jen Rothenberg and Jim Robillard. Also in attendance was Director of Recreation Joseph Connelly.

Members of the public included Deputy Town Manager Nancy Galkowski, Beth Martin, Teresa Spangler, Andrew Leonard and Paul Romeo.

Approval of Minutes

The Park and Recreation Commission reviewed the minutes of December 11, 2007. Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Mr. Robillard. Motion was approved 4-0.

Fire Station Committee

Ms. Mayer reviewed the prior meeting between the Fire Station Committee and Park and Recreation Commission with Ms. Galkowski. Ms. Mayer stated that the Commission requested more time so that Ms. Rothenberg, Ms. Robillard and Ms. Campbell could review the information prior to taking a vote.

Ms. Mayer stated that the following was needed in order for the land use to be transferred:

1. Unanimous vote of the Park and Recreation Commission
2. Unanimous vote of the Conservation Commission
3. 2/3 vote of Town Meeting
4. 2/3 vote of the Legislature
5. Approval by the Secretary of the Interior

The Commission discussed the request. Mr. Vitters would like the Park and Recreation Commission to create a master plan of the entire Hills Hill and Summer Street site. Ms. Mayer stated that she was not convinced the land was excess parkland. Mr. Vitters commented that it would be difficult to give up jurisdiction over this land. Ms. Galkowski did comment that it was only a small

parcel of Hills Hill. The Commission discussed alternative Fire Station options with Ms. Galkowski.

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to declare the piece of Hills Hill property surplus parkland for the purpose of the construction of a new Fire Station. Mr. Robillard seconded the motion. The motion was defeated 0-4.

Special Event Approvals

Mr. Connelly discussed an individuals field request for permission to fire paintballs at targets at Thorndike Field. Mr. Connelly did state that he discussed this with the Police Chief who had some concerns.

Mr. Connelly stated that he did not feel the use at this site was appropriate and would not be issuing the permit.

Ms. Mayer asked Mr. Connelly to confer with Town Counsel as to whether this could be added as a Park and Recreation Commission policy or needed to be in the by-laws.

Pheasant Ave./Stratton School Playground Design Review

Mr. Connelly reviewed the current budget for the project, stating that the combined capital and CDBG budget was \$418,000. Mr. Connelly explained that after design and survey work the construction budget was \$393,000. Mr. Leonard reviewed the revised plan with the Commission and representatives from the Stratton School. Mr. Vitters asked Mr. Leonard what size trees were budgeted. Mr. Leonard indicated 3" Lindens and Sugar Maples. Mr. Vitters requested that, if the budget allowed, more substantial trees to guarantee their survival. The Commission discussed the style, color and placement of the boulders placed near the benches along the field/playground line. The Commission requested a color that blended with the Rosetta stone and was of smooth consistency. Mr. Vitters asked that the design be tweaked so that the boulders did not look placed but rather naturally cropped. Mr. Leonard will attempt to redesign the boulder placement and may be able to add additional boulders.

Mr. Leonard did ask the Commission to choose three add alternates just in case the bids came back over budget. The Commission discussed some of the alternatives but will wait to make a decision until after the second public hearing. Ms. Rothenberg asked the school representatives if they had the opportunity to review the plan and what their recommendation for the add alternates would be. The Commission discussed the recycled plastic timbers and water fountain with Ms. Spangler. Ms. Rothenberg asked if fundraising was possible if the budget called for it. Ms. Martin stated that if there was a need, fundraising could be accomplished.

The Commission discussed the hearing process and bid timing. Mr. Connelly stated that the second public hearing would be held on February 5th and the Commission would be ready for final approval at the February meeting. Mr. Leonard stated that the bid should be out by late February or early March.

International School of Boston Terrace Project

Mr. Paul Romeo of the International School of Boston shared his proposal to terrace the hill at the school's playground, which is on Arlington Park and Recreation Commission property. Mr. Romeo explained that the school would do the design and pay for the entire project, except they request that the Town fund the filling the flowerbed areas with loam upon completion.

The Commission discussed the proposal. Mr. Romeo stated that he was looking for an approval of the concept and will present the Commission with a more detailed plan at a later date.

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to accept the concept pending approval of the final design and construction information, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 4-0.

Recreation and Rink Update

Mr. Connelly stated that the winter program registration was going well with the main stay programs such as beginner skating doing very well.

Mr. Connelly discussed the meeting with Arrowstreet regarding rink ice design. Mr. Connelly stated that he was soliciting quotes for a land survey to give the architects more detailed base information on how any addition to the building would affect parking, Buck Field, Hills Hill Field, and Summer Street Field.

Committee Updates

Field User – Mr. Connelly and Ms. Campbell have not met with the Field Users and were waiting for the Field Maintenance bid to be available. Mr. Connelly will talk to Mr. John Bean, DPW Director, about the process.

Green Dog – Ms. Mayer reviewed the results of the meetings to date stating that the Committee was requesting more time to go review the information collected and revise the proposal.

Friends of Parks - Ms. Rothenberg updated the Commission on the latest meeting and discussed the steps for moving forward with the brochure printing.

Other Business

Mr. Robillard motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation